

To:

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In response to your request.

An item such as this should not appear on the Journal because it is not of general interest, and I will ensure that such items do not appear for that very reason.

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Walt - While DCIDs & NSCIDs may not be of interest to all parts of ICS, they are of great concern to the 3 collection offices. It is my job to look out for their interests as well as the other ICS offices.
Thanks for sharing this memo with

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IC 82-3455
15 June 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR:

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FROM: Walter Elder
Executive Secretary, NFIB/NFIC

SUBJECT: NSCIDs and DCIDs

1. I do not intend to make any recommendation about the rescission or revision of NSCIDs until after the review and revision of the DCIDs have been completed. At the moment, I believe there will be precious little left to be covered by NSCIDs; and much of that hinges on how one chooses to read the executive order on services of common concern.

2. Two revised directives are being reviewed (NPIC and Critical Intelligence) which may result in specific judgments that NSCIDs 7 and 8 are no longer required. Coordination of these DCIDs is proceeding on the understanding that the need for NSCIDs will be decided later. This is in keeping with the charge to me to develop an independent series of DCIDs.

3. There are three approaches open, and I intend to keep them open.

a. Rescind the existing series of NSCIDs on the grounds that E.O. 12333 and a revised series of DCIDs are adequate.

b. Revise the existing series of NSCIDs to cover activities not specified in the executive order.

c. Amend (amplify) the executive order to ensure that all gaps are closed.

4. As a practical matter, after the initial flurry in 1947-1948, when the NSC issued its original directives, there have been only two outbursts (NSCID 6 and 7 in 1958 and NSCID 8 in 1961) and the imposition of NSCID 1 in 1972. In 1976, the NSC received a set of revisions. Their reaction was to declassify large batches of the 1972 versions and to ignore the revisions. This leaves us, at best, with a 1972 set of NSCIDs which have not been examined in the light of three subsequent comprehensive executive orders.

5. Moreover, the role and organization of the NSC have changed. I doubt we could get the NSC to focus on a set of revised NSCIDs for two reasons. One, there are no issues worthy of such high-level attention. Two, the existing mechanism for handling intelligence issues is the SIG(I). The chairman is the DCI. What would we have that body perpetrate?

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6. Since we are in basic agreement that some further directives may be required, let me propose the following division of labor:

a. I will continue the development of DCIDs to stand alone.

b. You consider my suggested three avenues of approach and determine precisely where we need something more than DCIDs, a statement of why, and how we go about getting it written, coordinated, approved, and published.

7. In the meantime, I'll keep you advised of my work in great detail.

8. It does not advance my work or yours either to keep repeating what we both understand--that the issue of NSCIDs is still to be resolved. You know that. I know that. What happens is that it arouses the prurient interests of other people who would rather argue about an abstract issue than consider concrete proposals about revising DCIDs.

[Redacted Signature]

Walter Elder

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